

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 have been examined, and claims 1, 2, and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Also, the Examiner has acknowledges that claims 3-7 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Objection to the drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because they allegedly do not show examples of the feeder portion recited in claim 6. Applicants submit that the holes 2a and 2b show illustrative, non-limiting embodiments of a feeder portion.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S.P. 3,424,873 to Walsh

Claims 1, 2, and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Walsh.

A. Claim 1

Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Walsh. For example, claim 1 states that an auxiliary diaphragm is formed to cover only a center portion of a diaphragm body. The Examiner contends Fig. 8 of Walsh shows a diaphragm 1 that corresponds to the claimed diaphragm body and shows paper 32 that corresponds to the claimed auxiliary diaphragm.

Applicants respectfully disagree. For example, as shown in Fig. 8 of the reference, the paper 32 does not cover only a center portion of the diaphragm 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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B. Claim 2

Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and thus, the rejection of the claim is moot.

C. Claim 8

Since claim 8 depends upon claim 1, Applicant submits that the claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

III. Newly added claims

Applicants have added new claims 9-17 to provide more varied protection for the invention.

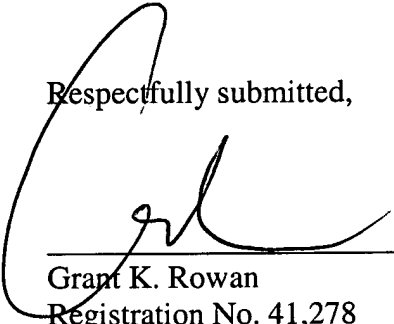
IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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